

Minutes

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Monday, August 18, 2025

7:00 P.M.

Police Training Room, Fourth Floor
Municipal Building, Jamestown, New York

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Jeff Russell, Councilman Paterniti

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilman William Reynolds

OTHERS PRESENT: City Clerk Jennifer R. John, Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Timothy Jackson, Interim Deputy Fire Chief Ryan Roush, Mayor's Executive Assistant Joseph Calimeri

Councilman Russell called the meeting to order.

Opportunities for Public Comment

Doug Champ of 225 Bowen Street, Jamestown, appeared before the Public Safety Committee to discuss resolution one. He expressed concerns regarding flood zones. Changes cannot be made unless they adhere to the FEMA plan associated with flood plains. He believes that there is environmental impact to the proposed changes. Mr. Champ quoted section 145-4 of the Jamestown City Code regarding the flood maps that are in effect. The flood plain map must be overlaid over the proposed change area.

Resolutions

1. WHEREAS, the City of Jamestown Zoning Code and Zoning Map regulate the classification and use of land to protect public health, safety, and welfare and to implement the City's Comprehensive Plan and related strategic development policies; and

WHEREAS, a request was submitted to the Department of Development to amend the City's official Zoning Map to rezone certain parcels from R-2 (Medium Density Residential) to C-1 (Local Commercial) to facilitate small-scale commercial redevelopment and neighborhood-serving mixed-use opportunities that better align with the existing character of the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the subject parcels are more particularly described as follows:

From the boundaries of Jackson-Taylor Park,

The back lot boundaries of Lafayette Street to Isabella Street,

The northern side of Isabella Street to the back lot boundaries of Clinton Street,

And the northern side of 8th Street until it meets the existing C-2 Community Commercial boundary; and

WHEREAS, the proposed rezoning area is located within the boundaries of the City of Jamestown's designated Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) area and, as such, is subject to a Consistency Review in accordance with Article 42 of the New York State Executive Law and Chapter 400 of the City Code; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has reviewed the proposed zoning map amendment and issued recommendations in support, citing alignment with the City's Comprehensive Plan, encouragement of investment, increased flexibility in land use, and enhanced compatibility with nearby existing commercial uses; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), the City Council has reviewed the proposed action and its potential environmental impacts, and on August 25, 2025 the Council issued a Negative Declaration as Lead Agency, determining that the proposed zoning map amendment will not have a significant adverse environmental impact; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Jamestown, New York, that the official Zoning Map of the City of Jamestown is hereby amended to rezone the parcels identified in Exhibit A from R-2 (Medium Density Residential) to C-1 (Local Commercial); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the effectiveness of this zone change is contingent upon the completion of a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) Consistency Review by the Department of Development and the issuance of a formal determination of consistency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Development is hereby directed to update the official Zoning Map and provide notice of this amendment to all appropriate City departments and agencies upon final LWRP compliance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following exhibits are attached to and made part of this resolution:

- Exhibit A – Letter of Recommendation by Planning Commission
- Exhibit B – Current Zoning Map
- Exhibit C – Proposed Zoning Map
- Exhibit D – SEQR Negative Declaration
- Exhibit E – LWRP Consistency Review Determination

- The committee decided to discuss the resolution during the full council meeting.
2. RESOLVED, that Officer Daniel Torres be, and hereby is, authorized to attend the Incumbent Officer Physical Ability and Fitness Testing Training to be held at the Erie County Law Enforcement Training Academy in Williamsville, NY from September 16th through September 18th, 2025, with lodging, meal and gas expenses paid by the Jamestown Police Department pursuant to Section 77-b of the General Municipal Laws of the State of New York.
- This resolution also appears on the Finance Agenda.

This training is to change the PT requirement for New York State. Police Officer Torres was selected to represent the City at this training.

Councilman Reynolds moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Paterniti.

Carried: 3 – 0

3. RESOLVED, that Deputy Chief Scott Forster, GIVE Coordinator Sydney Robinson, Crime Analyst Holly Katta, and one additional officer be, and hereby are, authorized to attend the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Public Safety Symposium to be held at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany, NY from September 15th through September 18th, 2025 with expenses paid by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services.
- This resolution also appears on the Finance Agenda.

Councilman Paterniti moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Reynolds.

Carried: 3 – 0

4. WHEREAS, the City of Jamestown has identified a need to expand its housing stock and revitalize neighborhoods through targeted infill development; and

WHEREAS, certain properties owned by the City of Jamestown, the Jamestown Urban Renewal Agency (JURA), and the Chautauqua County Land Bank Corporation are suitable for redevelopment as residential housing; and

WHEREAS, existing zoning provisions may create barriers to the redevelopment of such properties; and

WHEREAS, the proposed ordinance would create Pilot Residential Districts (PRDs) to allow for flexible zoning standards for infill housing development on eligible publicly owned

parcels while still requiring site plan review and ensuring compatibility with surrounding neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the City Planning Commission has reviewed the proposed ordinance and recommended its adoption; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) and 6 NYCRR Part 617, the City Council has assumed Lead Agency status for the review of this legislative action and has completed a Short Environmental Assessment Form (SEAF), Parts 1–3, determining that the proposed action will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Jamestown hereby adopts a Negative Declaration for the proposed action, finding that it will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and that no Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause the foregoing ordinance and Negative Declaration to be published, recorded, and filed in accordance with applicable law, and to transmit a certified copy of the ordinance and SEQR determination to the New York State Department of State for filing.

Councilman Paterniti moved to table the resolution, seconded by Councilman Reynolds.

Carried: 3 – 0

Councilman Reynolds noted that they discussed this resolution during the Housing Committee meeting. This will create a pilot program for residential districts for infill housing development on publicly owned properties.

Mr. Champ wanted to make sure that it adheres to the proper zoning requirements of an R-1 zone.

Ordinance/Local Law

- 5. ORDINANCE: CITY OF JAMESTOWN, NEW YORK
AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PILOT RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS FOR INFILL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ON PUBLICLY OWNED PROPERTIES

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Jamestown, New York, as follows:

Chapter [NEW CHAPTER NUMBER] — Pilot Residential Districts

§ [NEW SECTION NUMBER] Purpose and intent.

The purpose of this article is to advance the City’s housing goals by enabling targeted infill residential development on properties owned by the City of Jamestown, the Jamestown Urban Renewal Agency (JURA), and the Chautauqua County Land Bank Corporation. These Pilot Residential Districts (PRDs) will allow the City to bypass existing zoning restrictions that may inhibit redevelopment while ensuring that new housing projects undergo thorough design and compatibility review through the existing site plan approval process.

§ [NEW SECTION NUMBER] Authority.

This article is adopted pursuant to the authority granted to municipalities under the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law, the General City Law, and other applicable provisions of state and local law.

§ [NEW SECTION NUMBER] Definitions.

As used in this article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

PILOT RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (PRD)

A specially designated overlay district applied to eligible parcels for the purpose of facilitating residential infill development.

ELIGIBLE PROPERTY

Any parcel owned at the time of designation by:

- a. The City of Jamestown;
- b. The Jamestown Urban Renewal Agency (JURA); or
- c. The Chautauqua County Land Bank Corporation.

INFILL HOUSING

The development of new residential structures on vacant, underutilized, or redeveloped parcels within established neighborhoods.

§ [NEW SECTION NUMBER] Designation of Pilot Residential Districts.

- A. **Initiation.** PRDs may be proposed by the Department of Development, the City Planning Commission, or the City Council.
- B. **Approval.** PRDs shall be established by ordinance of the City Council, following review and recommendation by the Planning Commission.

C. **Duration.** PRDs may be in effect for a period not to exceed five (5) years from designation, unless extended or made permanent by Council action.

§ [NEW SECTION NUMBER] Zoning flexibility.

- A. Within a PRD, the provisions of the underlying zoning district regarding lot size, setbacks, frontage, building height, lot coverage, and density may be waived or modified by the Planning Commission as part of site plan approval.
- B. All other applicable building codes, health and safety regulations, and environmental requirements shall remain in force.

§ [NEW SECTION NUMBER] Site plan approval required.

- A. All development within a PRD shall require site plan review and approval in accordance with Chapter [CITE SITE PLAN REVIEW CHAPTER] of the City Code.
- B. The Planning Commission shall ensure that proposed developments are:
 - (1) Compatible in scale and character with surrounding neighborhoods;
 - (2) Designed to promote walkability, connectivity, and sustainability;
 - (3) Compliant with applicable building safety, fire, and accessibility standards.

§ [NEW SECTION NUMBER] Reporting and evaluation.

- A. The Department of Development shall prepare an annual report to the City Council on the status and outcomes of all PRDs, including:
 - (1) Number of units created;
 - (2) Project locations;
 - (3) Development costs and timelines;
 - (4) Community feedback.
- B. This report shall inform decisions regarding renewal, expansion, or permanent adoption of PRD provisions.

§ [NEW SECTION NUMBER] Severability.

If any provision of this article is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect.

§ [NEW SECTION NUMBER] Effective date.

This article shall take effect immediately.

Councilman Reynolds moved to table the resolution, seconded by Councilman Paterniti.

Carried: 3 – 0

Informational Report

6. Block Party: Stowe Street, from 2nd Street to Falconer Street, on August 30, 2025, with a rain date of September 6, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m.

Councilman Paterniti moved to approve the Block Party, with an end time of 7:30 p.m., seconded by Councilman Reynolds.

Carried: 3 – 0

7. Block Party: Hallock Street, from Royal Avenue and Fairmount Avenue, on August 31, 2025, from 8:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.

Councilman Reynolds moved to approve the Block Party as presented, seconded by Councilman Paterniti.

Carried: 3 – 0

8. Special Event: 2nd Annual Back to School Field Day, to be held on Saturday, August 23, 2025 at Jackson Taylor Park from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. (including set up and tear down).

Councilman Reynolds moved to approved the Special Event as presented, seconded by Councilman Paterniti.

Carried: 3 – 0

9. Special Event: Daniel Feather Memorial 5K, to be held on Sunday, August 31, 2025 from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. (including set up and tear down).

Councilman Paterniti moved to approve the Special Event as presented, seconded by Councilman Reynolds.

Carried: 3 – 0

Councilman Russell noted that during a block party, a safety lane must be kept open for emergency vehicles. There have been instances where inflatable bounce houses were in the street and a safety lane was not kept open.

The committee discussed the Block Party application previously submitted by Pete Schiera. Councilman Paterniti spoke to Mr. Schiera and was able to resolve any outstanding questions. His application will once again be placed on the Public Safety Committee agenda on September 8, 2025.

City Clerk John noted that the block party off of 3rd Street was cancelled. A voicemail was received in the City Clerk's Office stating that they decided to go in a different direction and not close a street. Barricades were placed on a side street if they decided to close off Cook or Lakin Avenue.

The guardrail by Persell School is set to be installed. Councilman Paterniti would like to see this project completed as school will be starting soon. The school district is paying for a portion of the project.

Councilman Russell spoke with Legislator Phil Landy regarding a request for a crosswalk at Jefferson Middle School from Bradmar to the school. Mr. Landy asked that even though there is not a sidewalk on the Bradmar side of the street, a pad and crosswalk be placed to assist children in crossing the street to the school. Councilman Russell and Councilman Daversa have spoken about this request as well.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

City Clerk/Treasurer Jennifer R. John